

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,  
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut  
Chairman

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**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

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**Congressman Christopher Shays to Hold March 17 Hearing on  
“U.S. Preparation for the World Radio Conferences:  
Too little, too late?”**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing to examine the processes of internal preparation and external consultation used by the Department of State, the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration and others in preparing for critical international meetings to decide global spectrum allocations and other communication services issues.

World Radio Conferences (WRC) bring together radio communications engineers and policy experts from International Technology Union (ITU) member nations who prepare for years to make proposals on radio technologies and services that will guide world development of wireless technologies and markets. WRC meetings are the primary instrument of the ITU to adopt changes to the International Table of [frequency] Allocations and the Radio Regulations.

There has been criticism of internal U.S. preparatory processes as too informal, bifurcated and slow. There are no regulations or management procedures governing WRC preparatory processes. Conflicts between federal agencies (i.e. DOD) and commercial interests (i.e. cell phone or WiFi service) for access to the same spectrum may not be resolved in a timely manner. No U.S. Ambassador to lead the WRC delegation is appointed until

six month prior to each meeting. As a result, advocacy of U.S. positions can be limited while other nations and regions build international consensus against American industry and governmental interests.

The Wednesday, March 17, 2004 hearing will convene at 10:00 am in room 2154 of the Rayburn Building in Washington, D.C.

## WITNESS LIST

### Committee on Government Reform

Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations

*March 17,, 2004*

#### **“U.S. Preparation for the World Radio Conferences: Too little, too late?”**

##### **PANEL ONE**

###### **Jeffrey N. Shane**

Under Secretary for Transportation  
Policy  
U.S. Department of Transportation

###### **William Readdy**

Associate Administrator for Space  
Flight  
National Aeronautic and Space  
Administration

###### **Michael Gallagher**

Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

**Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy**  
Federal Communications Commission

###### **Ambassador David Gross**

United States Coordinator  
International Communications and  
Information Policy  
U.S. Department of State

###### **Dr. Lin Wells**

Acting Assistant Secretary for NII

##### **PANEL TWO:**

###### **Dr. James Schlesinger**

Center for Strategic and International  
Studies

###### **Hon. John Bryant**

Former Congressman and U.S.  
Ambassador to  
1997 World Radio Conference

###### **Gail Schoettler**

U.S. Ambassador to  
2000 World Radio Conference

###### **Janice Obuchowski**

U.S. Ambassador to  
2003 World Radio Conference

###### **Brian Fontes**

U.S. Ambassador to  
1995 World Radio Conference  
(written testimony only)